

People and the PURSUIT of Truth

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LYING AND EXCUSES

by Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor

On this occasion, I am sorry to disagree with Richard E. Sprague, Associate Editor of *People and the Pursuit of Truth*. His evidence, analysis, and views I have greatly respected over the years. But this time, in regard to Professor G. Robert Blakey, and the interpretation of his speech in January 1979 (reprinted in this issue of *Pursuit* because (a) it is important and (b) it is in the public domain), it is plain and clear that Blakey is a liar, a skillful and deceptive liar, but a liar just the same. So he is really not an enigma.

What is a liar?

A person (a) who does not tell the truth, and (b) who knows that he is not telling the truth. It is that simple.

I believe that there are some poor excuses for lies. A man who has decided that if he notices the truth and tells the truth, he will be promptly killed, has an excuse for telling lies. Also, many politicians — perhaps all politicians — quickly discover that there are many occasions where they cannot tell the truth, for if they tell the truth, they know they will be completely discredited and ruined. Such people also have a poor excuse for telling lies. But what they tell are lies just the same, and that deceives the

people who trusted them to tell the truth, and that is wrong.

For example, take Senator Ted Kennedy. I think he has told many lies in connection with the incident at Chappaquiddick some years ago. Also, I think he knows that his brothers, President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy, were both assassinated by a very powerful conspiracy. Also, I think that he has a tacit treaty with the Power Control Group never to run for President of the United States, on penalty of death and blackmail both. But most of the time, I believe he does not lie nearly as much as President Jimmy Carter does. When Carter went to Three Mile Island and declared nuclear power to be safe and necessary, he lied. It is neither safe nor necessary.

But Blakey did not have to tell as many lies as he did. For example: it was physically impossible, as shown by excellent scientific photographic and physical evidence, for Lee Harvey Oswald to have shot President John F. Kennedy. Blakey had to choose blindfolding to avoid seeing that. Even Blakey in the last few days of the hearings was forced to admit that there was a fourth shot, i.e., "conspiracy."

Blakey was a big-time liar. The verdict of history will classify him as such.

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- solutions to great problems that are functioning well in some countries or places, yet are almost never talked about in the usual American press.

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